

caGrid Node Deployment FAQs
for caBIG® Deployment Leads (CDLs)

Q: What is the definition of a fully functional caGrid node?

A: A “functional” caGrid node is a node that you establish to securely connect your Center’s select data or analytic services to a caGrid network of researchers and organizations that are also sharing *their* data and analytic services. **Note:** If actual data are not available, you may use reference data and then replace with actual data, as agreed upon in your submitted Center Goals and Implementation Plan.

Q: What are my options to deploy a functional caGrid node at my Center?

A: Three paths for deploying a functional caGrid node include (1) installing the caBIG® Life Sciences Distribution (LSD) Bundle; (2) installing any caBIG® application; or (3) adapting one of your existing applications. Please refer to the August 7, 2008, presentation titled “Deploying a Functional caGrid Node.” This presentation is available on the caBIG® Deployment Leads Web page at https://cabig.nci.nih.gov/center_deployment, which is accessible using the log-in credentials you received for the online Self-Assessment.

Q: What are the technical guidelines for deploying a caGrid node?

A: Please refer to the caGrid Node Deployment Technical Guidance document, available at https://cabig-kc.nci.nih.gov/CaGrid/KC/index.php/Deploying_caGrid_Track.

Q: Who else from my Center needs to be involved in this endeavor?

A: This will vary with the Center’s organization. For additional information, please refer to page 4 of this document.

Q: What support resources are available through the caBIG® program to help me in this endeavor?

A: The caGrid Knowledge Center (https://cabig-kc.nci.nih.gov/CaGrid/KC/index.php/Main_Page) and the Deployment Advisory Center (caBIGconnect@cancer.gov), supported by the caGrid Deployment Team, are resources available through caBIG® to assist you. Please see page 5 of this document for information on additional resources.

Q: What are the different functions of the available resources?

A: The following groups will provide primary support for this endeavor:

- The caGrid Knowledge Center (KC) offers Web-based resources and information exchange through interaction with the Community. The KC is specifically designed to assist with caGrid-related activities and currently offers four online resources: MediaWiki pages, Knowledge Center Forum, Bug Tracking System (Bugzilla), and Code/Document Repository.



- The Deployment Advisory Center is your point of contact for deployment activities and can be accessed via caBIGconnect@cancer.gov. It is further augmented by the caGrid Deployment Team, which consists of caGrid experts and engineers and caBIG® Application Support staff who will offer technical support for deployment activities, including planning, architecture, installation, configuration, and overall guidance. The caGrid Deployment Team will also work with your team to address deployment issues that are specific to your site.

Q: How can I access the caGrid Knowledge Center?

A: The caGrid KC Web site can be accessed at:

https://cabig-kc.nci.nih.gov/CaGrid/KC/index.php/Main_Page.

Q: How should I use the Knowledge Centers?

A: Knowledge Centers offer Web-based support for caGrid node deployment, installation, and implementation of caBIG® tools. We encourage you to review the information available on the KC Web sites and post questions on the KC forums.

Answers to your questions will be posted back to the forum so that not only you but also others deploying caBIG® can benefit from the answers. The KC sites also provide useful information and documentation.

Q: What steps do I take if I need technical support to install a functional caGrid node?

A: Please first visit the caGrid Knowledge Center Web site and review the installation guide and materials, along with reviewing and posting to the discussion forum. We encourage you to post questions to the KC forum because we recognize that if you have a question, the chances are very high that there are others who have the same question. In an effort to maximize resources and streamline the process of deployment, the KC forums offer a mechanism to enhance community learning. If further assistance is needed, please contact the Deployment Advisory Center at caBIGconnect@cancer.gov. The Deployment Advisory Center will triage and route your request appropriately to provide you with a successful installation solution.

Q: Whom can I contact with specific questions?

A: If you have a specific question that was not answered through the KC, please direct your inquiry to the Deployment Advisory Center at caBIGconnect@cancer.gov.

Q: What is the caGrid Deployment Team?

A: The caGrid Deployment Team is a team of specialists that is available to support the community. The caGrid Deployment Team can provide guidance and assist your team with site-specific issues when information or specialized knowledge may not be available through the KC or other sources. The services of the caGrid Deployment Team are available at no cost to Centers.

Q: What is the scope of the caGrid Deployment Team's work?

A: The caGrid Deployment Team offers assistance with caGrid installation. The caGrid Deployment Team primarily focuses on planning, deployment (installation, configuration, application setup), and guidance on a variety of topics including security, integration, legacy data migration, and best practices. The team will help resolve deployment issues and is able to provide support onsite. The caGrid Deployment Team can also help direct your team to the appropriate resources in the caBIG® community. The team does not perform programming, software customization or data loading activities.

Q: How do I contact the caGrid Deployment Team?

A: All requests will go through the Deployment Advisory Center at caBIGconnect@cancer.gov, which will then direct your request to the caGrid Deployment Team based on your requirements.

Q: Where can I find technical documentation?

A: The documentation is located on the caGrid KC Web site: https://cabig-kc.nci.nih.gov/CaGrid/KC/index.php/Deploying_caGrid_Track. The technical documentation includes the caGrid Deployment Technical Guidance and LSD Installation guide.

Q: If I have technical problems after I have successfully deployed a functional caGrid node, whom should I contact?

A: Please first consult the appropriate Knowledge Center Web site and investigate the issue using the forums. If the problem requires further support, please contact NCICB Applications Support at 301-451-4384 or toll free: 888-478-4423; or via e-mail at ncicb@pop.nci.nih.gov.

Q: Who can I reach out to with questions surrounding data sharing and security issues on the caGrid?

A: Please refer to the caBIG® Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital (DSIC) Knowledge Center, which is an NCI-supported entity led by the University of Michigan. It can be accessed at https://cabig-kc.nci.nih.gov/DSIC/KC/index.php/Main_Page.

Whom To Involve at Your Center

In general, one or more persons with the following functional roles will need to be involved in your effort to deploy a functional caGrid node.

- Business personnel
 - Help select, approve the application to be deployed and fund the effort
 - Approve the data to be shared on the grid
- Legal - Policy
 - Review the implications of adopting a tool and possibly change internal and external policies
 - Typically, also review the data sharing agreements and compliance
- System personnel
 - Provide a computer or computing resource to install software and make the software available to users
 - Some systems teams will also install and configure the off-the-shelf software you have selected and its pre-requisites and configure the application specifically for your site
- Network security officer
 - Assist in the configuration of the grid services and make the necessary ports available for caGrid and internet access
- Software developer
 - Assist on loading data from an existing database into the tool selected (may be optional task)
- User managers
 - Design the new workflows based on the adopted tool and the caGrid interface
- Users
 - Use the application selected for deployment in the operations of your Center
- Trainers
 - Train users in the use of tools and new workflows
- Help Desk
 - Support the day to day operations and users of the new application

Additional Resources

caGrid Knowledge Center

- https://cabig-kc.nci.nih.gov/CaGrid/KC/index.php/Main_Page

Technical Guidance

- https://cabig-kc.nci.nih.gov/CaGrid/KC/index.php/Deploying_caGrid_Track

Documentation

- Installation and User Guide – <https://cabig-kc.nci.nih.gov/CaGrid/KC/index.php/Downloads>
- Technical Grid Documentation – <http://www.cagrid.org/>

Training Materials

- caCore Training Wiki – <https://wiki.nci.nih.gov/display/caCORE/caGrid+Training+Resources>
- “Silver to Grid Data Services” Three-Part Training – https://cabig-kc.nci.nih.gov/CaGrid/KC/index.php/Deploying_caGrid_Track

caGrid Tool Page (includes 27-minute caGrid Introduction and Demonstration)

- <https://cabig.nci.nih.gov/workspaces/Architecture/caGrid/>

Other Support

- Deployment Advisory Center – caBIGconnect@cancer.gov
- NCICB Applications Support – ncicb@pop.nci.nih.gov
- CDL Listserv – CENTER_DEPLOYMENT@LIST.NIH.GOV
- caGrid-users Listserv – CAGRID_USERS-L@LIST.NIH.GOV